China's view on South Asian Nuclear Issue

2105. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China is insisting that India must adhere to the UN Security Council Resolution on the South Asian nuclear issue;

(b) whether Government are aware of the statement of Foreign Ministry of China that "to the best of my knowledge, none of the nuclear countries have recognised the nuclear status of India", as reported in the Hindu dated 3rd April, 2000; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) India's position on UN Security Council Resolution 1172 has been conveyed to the Chinese side. Government have also underlined that both sides should be sensitive to each others security concerns and sovereignty including the sovereign right of a country to determine its own security needs and take measures essential for its national security requirements. Both sides agree that differences, including on the nuclear issue, should not be an impediment to improvement of bilateral relations.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government maintains that India is a nuclear weapon State in the sense that we posses nuclear weapons. This is simply a statement of fact. It is neither a conferment that we seek; nor is it a status for others to grant.

Sale of Indian Women into Sex Slavery

2106. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report captioned "1000 women sold into sex slavery each year in Britain" published in the Indian Express of May 31st, 2000, stating that more than 1,000 women from Eastern Europe, Asia and Africa were trapped into sex slavery in Britain each year.

(b) if so, what is Government's assessment about the number of